

# District Court Judge

## Gregory J. Motyka, Third Judicial District

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**DATE OF BIRTH:** April 3, 1950

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Brooklyn, New York

**NAME OF SPOUSE:** Jennifer Jones

**CHILDREN:** Jason, Brett

**MAILING ADDRESS:** 825 West Fourth Avenue, Room 324  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

**LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA:** 22 years  
Anchorage 1980 to present

**EDUCATION:**  
Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, 1967-1971, B.S. Chemistry;  
Brooklyn Law School, 1972-1976, J.D.

**POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:**  
Assistant District Attorney, New York County (New York), 1977-1980; District Court Judge, 1991-present.

**BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:**  
Eleven years private civil practice of law in Anchorage, including Thwaites & Motyka, 1986-1989, and Law Office of Gregory J. Motyka, 1990-1991.

**SERVICE ORGANIZATION(S) MEMBERSHIP:**  
Alaska Bar Association

**SPECIAL INTERESTS:**  
Woodworking, golf, gardening, raising and showing St. Bernards.

### STATEMENT:

Prior to taking the bench in 1991, I spent most of my professional life as either a prosecutor or a trial attorney. For the past eleven years I have had the honor of serving the people of the State of Alaska as a district court judge. The job is challenging, personally satisfying and frustrating - usually all at the same time. I meet people from all walks of life on a daily basis. I strive to treat all who appear before me with courtesy and respect and to be fair and impartial in my decisions.

With the remaining space available to me here, I'd like to invite each of you to come into the courts to observe how our justice system operates. When I was an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan back in the 70's, it was commonplace to have several observers sitting in the gallery area of the courtroom. Here in Alaska, it has been my experience that, with the exception of CourtWatch which reports to the public as a public service, the general public rarely comes to court to see for themselves how the justice system works. Instead, we Alaskans tend to rely on the news media to tell us what happens in court.

Court proceedings are generally open to the public. I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to see for yourself how the criminal and civil justice system works.

*provided and paid for by the candidate*

# Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

## Judge Gregory Motyka, District Court, Anchorage

**I. Judicial Council Evaluation.** The Alaska Judicial Council, a non-partisan citizens commission established by the Alaska Constitution, finds Judge Motyka to be *Qualified* and recommends unanimously (5-0) that the public vote **Yes** to retain him as a district court judge.

**II. Summary of Evaluation Information.** A survey of 2,860 attorneys in Alaska rated Judge Motyka on sixteen categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Attorneys rated Judge Motyka 4.1 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. He scored highest (4.2) in the categories of integrity, controls courtroom, and ability for cases involving children and families. He scored 4.0 or better in all sixteen categories.

	Attorney Survey	Peace Officer Survey	Juror Survey	Court Employee Survey	CourtWatch Survey
Legal Ability	4.0	---	---	---	---
Impartiality	4.1	4.3	4.7	4.4	---
Integrity	4.2	4.4	---	4.4	---
Temperament	4.1	4.4	4.7	4.4	---
Diligence	4.1	4.4	---	4.3	---
Special Skills	4.1	4.3	---	---	---
Overall	4.1	4.3	4.7	4.4	4.2

Ratings are based on a one to five scale. Five is the best rating and three is "acceptable."

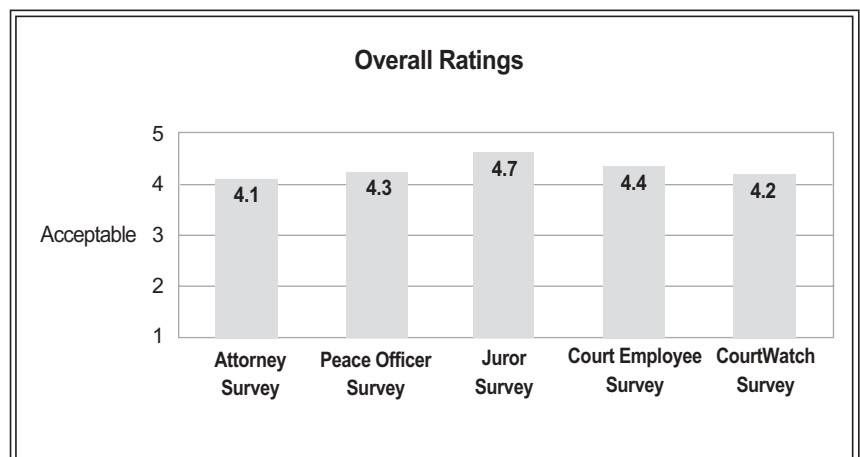
### Rating Scale

5.0 = Excellent  
4.0 = Good  
3.0 = Acceptable  
2.0 = Deficient  
1.0 = Unacceptable

A survey of 1,704 peace and probation officers in Alaska rated Judge Motyka on twelve categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Peace and probation officers rated Judge Motyka 4.3 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. He scored 4.3 or 4.4 in all categories.

A survey of all jurors appearing before Judge Motyka in 2000 and 2001 rated him 4.7 on a scale of 5 on overall performance. A survey of all court employees rated him 4.4 on a scale of 5 on overall performance. The CourtWatch Report prepared by Victims for Justice gave Judge Motyka a 4.2 overall rating on a scale of 5.

The Council also completed a background investigation including a court records check, a disciplinary records check, a review of conflict of interest statements submitted to the court system and a review of financial disclosure statements submitted to the Alaska Public Offices Commission. Attorneys, peace officers, court employees and jurors were asked to submit written comments about the judge. The Council actively encouraged the public to comment, both in writing and in a statewide public hearing teleconference.



**Recommendation: Vote YES to retain Judge Motyka**

Contact the Judicial Council at 1029 W. 3rd, Suite 201, Anchorage, AK 99501 (telephone: (907) 279-2526) for more detailed information, or review the information on our Internet site at:

[www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us)

November 2002